

# THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. JOHN IN THE WILDERNESS

APRIL 18, 2024

The April Vestry meeting was called to order at 5:05 p.m. by Fr. Josh Stephens. Those attending included: Senior Warden, Jerry Holt, Junior Warden, Will Rodriguez, Clint Adams, Jon Fitzpatrick, Patrice German, Jim Gibbs, E.R. Haire, Kim Sanders, and Sandy Skelton. Those absent include Jill Owen, Marissa Pharr, Laura Teel, and Father Ian.

After the general welcome and Vestry member check-in, Sandy Skelton led the opening devotion with scriptural guidance for Vestry members from Galatians 6, 9 & 10. He then cautioned it was important not to become weary as mentioned in Galatians. Next, he asked various Vestry members how they functioned as leaders and read two prayers petitioning for guidance from *the Book of Common Prayers*. In closing, we all joined in the Lord's Prayer.

**Acceptance of Consent Agenda for April:** Will Rodriguez made a motion to accept all committee reports as well as the minutes of the March Vestry meeting with the corrections from Father Josh; Sandy Skelton seconded the motion, and it was passed by the Vestry.

**Rector's Report:** Fr. Josh spent the day with members of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. As their annual trip, the group was visiting Historic Flat Rock. Father Josh shared the story of St. John in the Wilderness including information about the people as well as the structures. The group had lunch at St. John's. Luke Hunter from Historic Flat Rock wanted to meet Tiffany Tolbert. Ms. Tolbert runs the grant programs through the National Trust. There are programs for Sacred History and another for Black History. St. John in the Wilderness may be able to pursue grants for archaeology through one of those programs. Initially, a small grant would be sought to determine whether anything of archaeological interest is located on the church property. If sufficient items are located, then a larger grant to fund the work of archaeologists would be applied for.

Fr. Josh reviewed the Summer Outreach Intern position as an internship to connect St. John in the Wilderness to existing and new opportunities for Outreach in our community so that our community can more deeply share in the wholeness that God is bringing to the lives of our neighbors in Jesus' name. Laura Shelton is to be the intern. Her stipend of \$1,500 will be paid from the [Rector's](#) Special Projects Funds. One of the goals of the program is to help our parishioners understand how much Outreach we do as well as identify additional opportunities in the community. Patrice German made a motion to approve the position and expenditure. ER Harris seconded the motion, and it was passed by the Vestry.

E. R. Haire has an interview with the Dioceses to approve him for ordination. If the interview goes well, he will be ordained as a Deacon. In accordance with the Canons of the Episcopal Church, two-thirds of the Vestry must verify he is a member in good standing and that he has the qualifications for holy orders. Will Rodriguez moved to support E. R. as a candidate for Holy Orders. Patrice German seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. All present signed a letter attesting to their approval.

**Senior Warden Report:** Jerry Holt met with the Executive Committee and Finance Committee this month. With Will Roriguez, Junior Warden, he toured areas of the church with which he was unfamiliar.

**Junior Warden Report:** In his report, Will discussed the remodeling of the Education Building. When Leicester Carpeting began removing the existing carpeting, they discovered that tile as well as other

materials were under the carpet. Removal will create a cost increase. Most of the painting has been completed. Despite the teenage room walls being floated and skim-coated, red paint bled through. This will be corrected with the application of oil-based paint which will also incur additional costs. Jerry Tanner is working to stay within the \$60,000 budgeted for the project. Completion is anticipated in approximately three weeks unless something unanticipated occurs.

Will is coordinating schedules with the parsonage resident to address mold issues in the bathroom.

A sample of outdoor lighting has been installed. Its functionality will be assessed before the remainder is installed.

Will also reported that Deacon Sandy will have volunteers cleaning headstones in the graveyard later in April..

**Treasurer's Report:** Tom reported that the Finance committee continues to meet. New pledges are continuing to come in, so the pledges are higher than budgeted. The increase is welcome as an unexpected expense from mold in the parsonage bathroom has occurred. Estimates to remediate the mold have not been secured yet so the cost is undefined at this time.

Outreach tracking was at about 25% for the year. It was going well before the generous Easter and Good Friday collections.

The Endowment Meeting on Monday discussed making the endowment more visible so the long-term future as well as investments of the church are.

Clint Adams made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report. E.R. Haire seconded.

## **Old Business**

Father Josh reviewed how Vestry members are to connect to the various parish ministries. The Chairs of ministries were sent today announcing that Vestry would be contacting them shortly. Vestry members were urged to contact the Ministry Leaders soon and work on developing relationships. The goal is to help leaders feel supported and know that the Vestry is grateful for their work. The Vestry members are to provide written reports and post them on Google Drive. These will also be added to the Consent Agenda. If an issue is identified, the Vestry member should ask to have it added to the agenda. All chairs should be contacted in August to ask about budgetary needs. Tom offered to provide information on financial resources available to Vestry.

Following a closing prayer led by Fr. Josh, the April Vestry meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Sanders

Sub for Margaret A. Barker  
Clerk of the Vestry